

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 1, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, D. Stillinger, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott (arrived 8:11) and Sophie Kapica, Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient (arrived 8:17-8:40).

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7, Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from April 3, 2012 will be carried to the June 5, 2012 meeting for approval.

CONGRATULATIONS! Girl Scout Gold Award Scout Sophie Kapica for arranging the installation of eight environmentally friendly hand dryers at the high school. Sophie is interested in an unpaid internship with CTEC during the summer. Commission discussed various options for her internship, which will take place during June and July.

Green Team Meeting S. Carroll, Green Team Chair - 7:38-8:10 Reviewed proposed Sustainable Jersey items, which included but not limited to: Green Development Checklist, NRI, Green Challenge, Pledge Supporting NJ Wildlife Action Plan, Energy Outreach & Education and Carbon footprints. The Green Team will participate at the Green Fair and Fishawack Festival. Pat Collington motioned to approve obtaining a table at the Fishawack Festival and Lou Caprioglio 2nd, with all in favor. Dot Stillinger commended Steve with keeping CTEC informed with frequent status reminders regarding certification with Sustainable Jersey action items. Discussed and explained was the usefulness of being Sustainable Jersey, which is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Provides access to grants, and identifies existing and new funding opportunities for municipalities to make progress toward the actions. S. Carroll, Green Team Chair

REVISED STEEP SLOPES ORDINANCE – Memo sent to Township Committee urging adoption of ordinance proposed by Planning Board. First reading approved 4-26-12 by Township Committee. The ordinance is not yet available on the Township website.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. PSE&G application dated March 2012 for Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit and Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit for construction along the Roseland-Lambertville transmission line right-of-way. Review for approval memos to NJDEP and NJBPU. Steve Carroll motioned to approve sending the memos to NJDEP & NJBPU and Pat Collington 2nd, with all in favor.

CLOSED. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road. Approved by Planning Board 4-23-12. Plans call for a conservation easement on the stormwater basin lots and a "tree non-disturbance easement" on a 20 foot wide strip along the rear of the upper lots. CTEC will monitor these.

PENDING. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, applicant or representatives did not attend. Memo was sent from CTEC to BOA.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information. It was specifically excluded from the market garden ordinance.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison. Discussion regarding the proposed steep slopes ordinance continued. Mr. Caprioglio feels that not all areas are addressed. Additionally, he has some concern that the proposed ordinance is too loose regarding existing single family residences who will be exempted when disturbance area is 25% or less. Mrs. Abbott stated that the ordinance was discussed not passed and she would like to discuss further with Township Engineer John Ruschke.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott

Open Space Committee report. P. Collington, S. Krishnan - Open Space Committee liaisons. Monday, May 7th – How to Protect Streams and Enhance the Value of your Property, from 7-9 pm, Governor Livingston High School, 175 Watchung Blvd, Berkeley Heights, hosted by the Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission. Open to the public. Experts from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, and the Passaic River Coalition will talk about addressing flooding in the Passaic River Basin, enhancing the value of property, conforming to riparian ordinance, ordinances and protecting streams. Anyone whose property borders a stream or river in Berkeley heights, New Providence, Summit, Long Hill & and the Chathams is encouraged to attend. Question period follows the presentations.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington - Chair. Communications CTCE has assisted another Scout in accomplishing Gold / Eagle Scout Project. Environmental goals were set by Girl Scout Sophie Kapica and Sophie is completing the final steps toward attaining the highest award in Girl Scouting. One of many Gold Award requirements is the completion of an ~80 hour Gold Award Project. Sophie exceeds Girl Scouting's requirements--she planned and accomplished several projects--all having an environmental goal of helping her community to reduce paper usage.

To accomplish this, Sophie :

- designed and manned an interactive, educational "green booth" at the Green Fair of the Chathams 2011 (refer to photo slide #29 at <http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/scout-video.html>)

- created an educational video which is currently posted the websites of the Morris County MUA, the Northern New Jersey Girl Scout Council, the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, and other sites <http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/scout-video.html>

- created informative signs, about how to save paper when using copy machines and computer printers- which were approved for posting at printer and copier stations throughout Chatham High School
- designed and manned an interactive, educational "green booth" at the Green Fair of the Chathams 2011 (refer to photo slide #29 at <http://www.chathamtownship.org/CTEC/scout-video.html>)
- researched environmental aspects of electric hand dryers (vs paper towel dispensers) and convinced the Dyson Company to graciously donate eight hand dryers for the SDOC-they are currently being installed in the High School bathrooms.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito - Chair, P. Collington
Working to get Conservation Easements Spreadsheet on CTEC website.

Recycling Committee report. F. Esposito, Chair. **Event Completed April 11, 2012** CTEC's Recycling Committee Chairman Frank Esposito and MCMUA Recycling Division's Liz Sweedy gave a presentation on recycling to The Chathams Senior Citizen Organization. (See notes also from the Twp's Green Team, as the Twp's Green Team's "Green Challenge" was also presented to the Seniors.

Event CANCELLED Sat May 12, 2012 at 9a.m. tour of the Twp's Recycling Center on Tanglewood Lane and the Twp's Sewer Plant...cancelled.

Reminder: The Morris County MUA is hosting an electronics and hazardous waste drop off event in Chatham Township on June 23, 2012. Details are on the county's webpage at www.mcmua under HHW

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

Sophie Kapica, high school student, is interested in an unpaid internship this summer.

On June 23 the MCMUA will host the county's residential Household Hazardous Waste event at the high school. K. Abbott.

NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11, 10-8-11, 10-24-11, 11-14-11, 2-1-12, 2-22-12.

Subcommittee will do most of the updating with volunteers. All welcome to participate. Visit <http://allcat.tzo.com> to view the current draft which will soon also be on the Township website. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.

Safe Routes to School - update.

Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.

10th Annual Cleanup, Saturday, April 21. Trail improved and over a dozen bags of trash removed.

Student volunteers for CTEC. Activities, projects. P. Collington, F. Esposito.

Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.

Continue to urge posting of conservation easement inventory spreadsheet on the Township website.

A memo was submitted to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump, now called the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, on Township property on Green Village Road to make possible a future nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.

PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- April 2012. Memo to Township Committee urging adoption of the Planning Board's version of a steep slopes ordinance.
- March 2012. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permit application for building improvements, Simonfay, 118 Westminster Road, B 48.10 L7. Memo to NJDEP concerning wetlands permit application, PSE&G gas line maintenance.
- February 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15, building on steep slopes.
- January 2012. Letter sent to Township Committee urging purchase of a gas rather than diesel backup generator for the sewage treatment plant at Chatham Glen.
- October 2011. Letter sent to Mayor Hagner commending Morris E. Enyeart (Township Webmaster-City Connections LLC) and Tom Salvas (Manager-Chatham Township Governmental Access TV / Electronic Community Bulletin Board) for their outstanding work and tremendous help in greatly improving CTEC's website, archiving, and public service communications. Letter (in e-mail form) sent to Senator Menendez urging full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

EVENTS

- May 2, 2012, Wednesday, Morris County Green Table Forum, Long Term Open Space Planning for Flood Prone Areas (Discussing the new Morris County Flood Mitigation Program), 8 a.m., Frelinghuysen Arboretum. www.morrisgreentable.org
- May 3, Thursday, 7:30 pm, Library of the Chathams. Eco Film and Discussion series continues with TAPPED.

Do you still drink bottled water? What exactly goes into that plastic bottle of water? Is clean drinking water a human right; a public good; or a commodity to be bought and sold? Please join us for a thought-provoking movie, followed by a lively discussion, led by Chatham Borough Councilman Len Resto. Free admission and refreshments.

- May 5 & 6, Saturday and Sunday, 17th Annual Plant Sale, Frelinghuysen Arboretum. morrisparks.net.
- May 6, Sunday. Morris Parks presents Go Wild for Nature, Outdoor Education Center. morrisparks.net.

- May 9, Wednesday. Tour of local recycling facilities and the Mt. Olive transfer station. Here is the list of places we plan to tour:

- MUA vegetative waste and composting facility in Mt. Olive
- MUA transfer station in Mt. Olive
- Household hazardous waste facility in Mt. Olive
- ReCommunity, single-stream recycling facility in Mine Hill
- Morris ReStore (not confirmed yet)

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you would like to sign up, as the tour is limited to 10 participants. We will leave from the MUA offices (300 Mendham Road, Morris Township) around 9:15 a.m. (we will confirm time the week before the tour).

If you are interested in only touring ReCommunity, we can arrange for you to meet us directly at that facility at 1:30 p.m.

Liz Sweedy, Morris County MUA, PO Box 370, Mendham, NJ 07945 - 0370, 973-285-8393 phone.

- May 12, 2012, Saturday from 9AM to noon. Volunteer stream assessment training at the Great Swamp Outdoor

Education Center taught by Stephanie Queirolo, AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassador. Volunteers should wear weather appropriate gear. Upon completion of the training, all volunteers will be certified to do their own stream assessments. Free refreshments.

- May 12, 2012, Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm, New Jersey Environmental Federation's 26th annual environmental conference: "Recharge the Economy, Invest in the Environment" will be held at Rutgers University Center for Law & Justice in Newark, NJ.

- June 16, Saturday. Pedals for Progress and MUA bicycle collection. 12 noon - 3 p.m. County College of Morris, Parking Lot #1, Center Grove Road, Randolph, NJ. \$10 per bicycle. Also accept bicycle helmets (free) and sewing machines (\$10).
- June 23, Saturday. The MCMUA will host the county's residential Household Hazardous Waste event at the Chatham high school, 9 AM-2 PM. Electronics and hazardous waste accepted. Free.
- October 19, 2012, Friday. Passaic River Symposium V, "Today's Status, Tomorrow's Perspective", University Hall Conference Center, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ.
www.csam.montclair.edu/pri/conferences.
- November 2, Friday. 25th Annual Recycling Awards Dinner, "Food for Thought: the Past, the Present, and the Future of Recycling. Hanover Manor, East Hanover, NJ.

MAIL RECEIVED

Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:30

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary